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SCIENCE

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POST-GRADUATE STUDY IN APPLIED CHEMISTRY

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THE subject assigned to me in this discussion seems to have been somewhat mixed. I have been asked to discuss:

1. To what extent is post-graduate training recognized or desired by employers of chemists?

2. What should be the attitude of technical interests toward post-graduate work?

3. What should be the attitude of technical institutions toward post-graduate study?

It matters little how the subject of our discussion is stated, it really becomes, What shall be the training or education of young men whose life work shall be the applications of chemistry, or physics, or both, in the industries? It is a question which the experience of a century at least has scarcely solved. The elements which enter into the answer are too varied, the results to be attained too manifold, the conditions available too perplexing, the personal equation too persistent. Shall the training be confined to the storage of the facts and laws of chemistry and physics in the minds and memories of the young students, trusting to the exigencies which may arise to find their application, and that when the exigencies do arise the facts and laws will be brought forth and be wisely applied? Or shall we first cause storage of facts, principles and laws, and afterwards offer training in the methods whereby these shall be applied and employed in the solution of the problems likely to arise in the industries and to demand treatment with satisfactory results?